

CALIFORNIA GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES UPDATED FLASH INCIDENT REPORT

EVENT NAME: West Lake Incident, Kern and Los Angeles Counties
(This report may contain unconfirmed information)

DATE/TIME OF REPORT: 10/16/2015 at 1215 hours

DATE/TIME OF EVENT: 10/15/2015 at 1506 hours

LOCATION: Interstate 5 at Fort Tejon and Highway 58 at Tehachapi

IMPACT OF EVENT: MODERATE

CRITICAL INFORMATION UPDATES:

- Caltrans reports that Northbound Interstate 5 is scheduled to be fully reopened at 1400 hours today. Three Southbound lanes is scheduled to reopen at 1700 hours today.
- Caltrans advised that a section of Highway 58 has been closed due to mudflows over the roadway inundating approximately 200 vehicles. The road has been closed between Tehachapi and Mojave. Currently, the estimated time of reopening is unknown.
- Students and chaperones from the Arvin School District were cut-off while returning home due to the closure of Highway 58. Palmdale School District assisted Arvin School district by providing accommodations and meals overnight. The students are expected to arrive in Arvin this evening by taking a detour around the closed section of Highway 58
- As much as 4 inches of rain fell in a short period of time in localized areas, portions of which were covered with golf ball-sized hail. National Weather Service has issued Flash Flood Watches and Warnings through 2000 hours tonight for areas in Kern, Los Angeles, Fresno, Orange, Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, San Bernardino, Riverside, Inyo, and San Diego Counties.
- California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) is attempting to assess current track conditions along Highway 58; however, due to road closures and debris on the roadways, CPUC and Union Pacific Railroad are having difficulty getting equipment into their areas.

SITUATION

- A low-pressure weather system absorbing moisture from the south sparked severe weather, mudslides and flash flood watches and warnings across Southern California through this evening.
- Flash flooding sent water, mud and rocks rushing across Interstate 5 at Fort Tejon, stranding hundreds of vehicles and closing the major north-south thoroughfare. Some secondary roads were left impassable from mud.
- There have been no reports of serious injuries or deaths, as of this report.

Activations

- Los Angeles County EOS is activated at Level 1.
- Kern County EOC is activated at Level 2.
- City of Palmdale is activated at Level 1.

Road Conditions and Closures

- Per CHP:
 - Northbound Interstate 5 traffic is closed at Frazier Mountain Park
 - Southbound Interstate 5 traffic is closed at Grapevine Road
 - Eastbound and Westbound Highway 58 between Tehachapi and Mojave is closed

Per Caltrans:

- There is approximately 500' or more of debris on northbound I-5 as deep as 5 feet that needs to be hauled out.
- There are no vehicles reported stuck on northbound Interstate 5.
- The debris on southbound I-5 is across a 1/2 mile or more and there are still dozens of vehicles, including trucks stuck. Work is ongoing to remove debris but it is slowed by the extraction of vehicles by tow services.
- Kern Co. and Fire are assisting with loaders to assist in removing debris.
- A state geologist is being sent out late Thursday evening to assess slopes stability in order to reopen when debris is removed

Per Cal OES Law Duty Officer:

- Kern County Sheriff's Office estimates that 400 subjects have been displaced. Two hoist helicopters in the area with one extra monitoring the area. There are no search and rescue mission pending. Kern County Sheriff's Office estimates that the roadway will be closed for up to two days.

Infrastructure & Utilities

- Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) main tracks out of service at railroad station Cameron (just south of Tehachapi about 8 miles and 10 miles north of Mojave) due to fears of potential bridge and track washout – yet to be confirmed.

Inland Region

- Per the Cal OES Inland Region Duty Officer, Kern County does not have any requests for state assistance at the time of this report
- Mudslides have occurred on Hwy 58 closing the roadway between Tehachapi and Mojave. Students and chaperones from the Arvin School District were cut-off while returning home. Palmdale School District assisted Arvin School district by providing accommodations and meals overnight. The students are expected to arrive in Arvin this evening by taking a detour around the closed section of Hwy 58.

Southern Region

- Los Angeles County Probation Department reported that Camp Mendenhall, a probation camp, was sheltering in place due to a mudslide on Lake Hughes Road. The camp advises that they are self-sufficient and have adequate supplies of water and food.
- Camp Mendenhall reported 49 minor in the camp and 22 minors from Camp Munz. Adult staff is 14 Probation Officers and 12 other auxiliary staff.
- Camp Munz is currently closed due to plumbing upgrade. No minors on premises. Due to facility upgrade all minors were transferred to Camp Mendenhall. Currently on site 15 adults (Probation, DMH, and other auxiliary staff). They have enough food and water and will shelter in place until roads are reopened.
- Los Angeles County does not have any unmet needs or requests for state assistance at the time of this report, per the Cal OES Southern Region Duty Officer.
- Los Angeles County will activate their 211 Disaster Hotline for businesses and residents to report damages. The damage report capability will also be available on their website.

Shelters

Kern County

- A shelter has been opened west of the slide at Monroe High School, 126 S Snyder Ave, Tehachapi, CA 93561. Population: 140
- A shelter has been opened east of the slide at Mojave High School, 15732 O St, Mojave, CA 93501. Population: 120
- Jacobson High School High School - 711 Anita Drive, Tehachapi, CA

Los Angeles County

- The City of Palmdale is reporting that the American Red Cross has established a shelter at Marie Kerr Park, 2723 Rancho Vista Blvd (address for the Palmdale Amphitheatre), Palmdale, CA 93551.
- Lake Elizabeth Elementary School is sheltering 25 people who were trapped and had to shelter in place.
- A temporary shelter has been opened at the Palmdale Learning Center for displaced Arvin School District students and chaperones, 38043 Division St. Palmdale, CA 93551. This is not an American Red Cross shelter. Population: 140

Cal OES leaders and 24-hour on call duty officers are gathering information and providing updates as they become available.

POINT OF CONTACT: California State Warning Center
916-845-8911

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